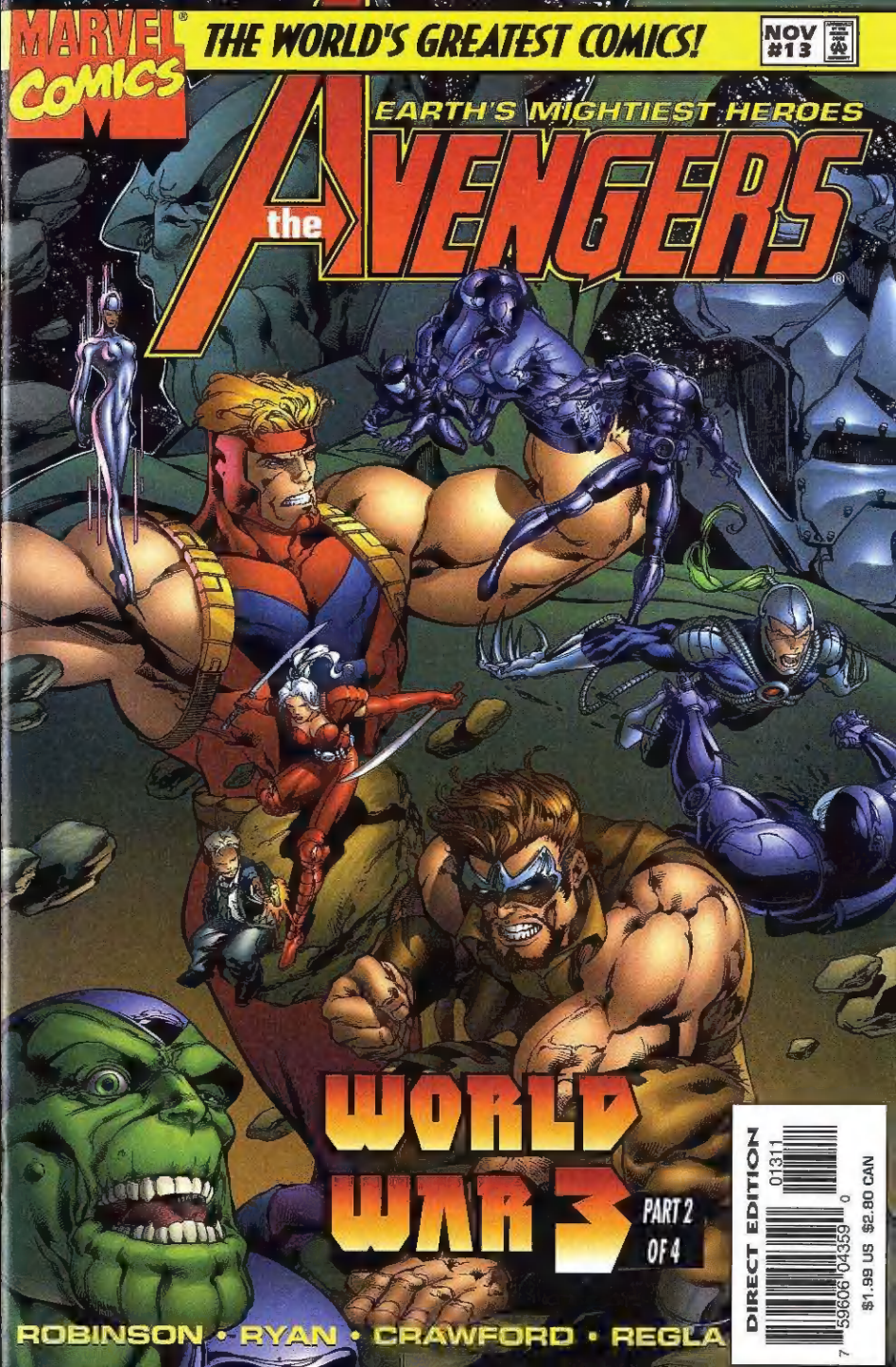
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WORLD WAR 3
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EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

# AVENGERS

They are the world's greatest heroes: America's super-soldier, reborn from the ashes of World War II; an immortal thunder god from the golden halls of Asgard; a modern-day knight clad in futuristic armor of his own design; a young woman whose mutant power to affect probability causes some to see her as a witch; an archer whose unerring eye is matched only by the strength of his arms; a brilliant scientist and his one true love, each endowed with the abilities of the smallest of Earth's creatures, the insects; and a hybrid who embodies the finest and most ferocious aspects of the feline species. Together, they stand allied against the threats that none of them can face alone; together, they are much, much more than merely the sum of their parts. They are Earth's Mightiest Heroes—The Avengers!

## CAPTAIN AMERICA

The Avengers' moral compass as well as their field leader, *Captain America* has recently been awakened from a decades-long dream to return to the service of his country once again. Originally our greatest fighting man against the Axis forces in WWII, *Cap* now stands vigilant guardian against the evils that plague modern America, while seeking to find his own place in society as *Steve Rogers*.

## THOR

*The god of thunder, Thor* is the immortal son of Odin, chief sky god as worshiped by the Vikings. Departing from his home in hallowed Asgard, *Thor* has sworn to protect the inhabitants of Midgard (Earth) from all who would seek to do them harm. By his side he carries the indestructible enchanted hammer, *Mjolnir*, one of the most powerful weapons in the universe.

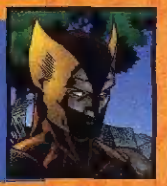
## IRON MAN

Brilliant and fabulously wealthy inventor *Tony Stark* is both the Avengers' chief source of financial support, and also secretly one of their most powerful members. When a near-fatal accident forced *Stark* to don an experimental life-preserving armor of his own design, he chose to take advantage of the fateful occurrence by using the armor to fight for good as the invincible *Iron Man*.

## SCARLET WITCH

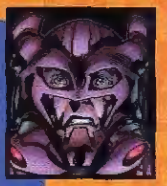
The mysterious young woman known only as *Wanda* was abandoned as a child and later found and raised by the so-called witch, Agatha Harkness. While her abilities may themselves seem like witchcraft to some, in truth they are the expression of her mutant ability to psionically affect probability, manifested by her "hexes". She continues to hone her abilities in the Avengers as the *Scarlet Witch*.

## HAWKEYE



A master archer as well as an accomplished acrobat, *Clint Barton* felt that his talents were wasted on a burgeoning career in the circus and chose instead the life of an adventurer. Cocky and independent, he has always felt that the mantle of leadership in the Avengers would fit his shoulders rather better than it fits anyone else's.

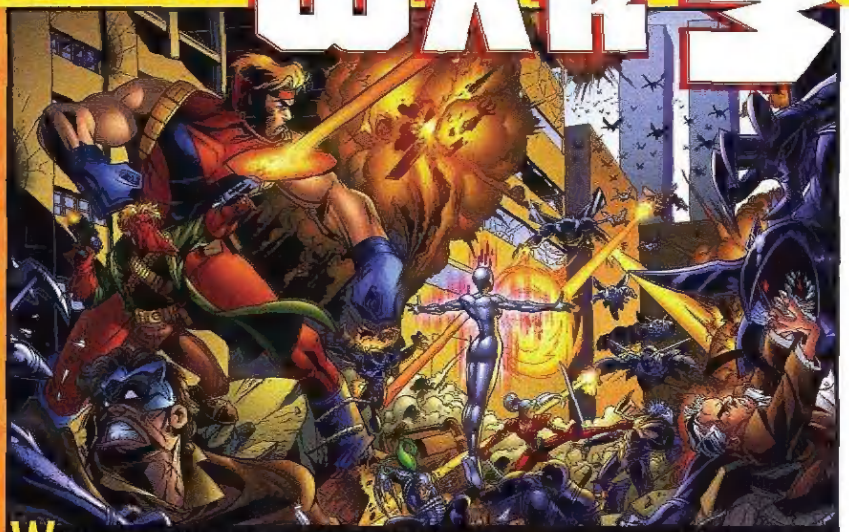
## ANT-MAN



Genius scientist *Hank Pym*, researcher in the field of microbiotics, created an incredible Micron gas whose unique properties caused items that it affected to shrink in size. In an attempt to repair the android Avenger known as the *Vision*, *Pym* himself became the first subject of the use of Micron gas on a living being. *Pym* later joined the ranks of the Avengers as the astonishing *Ant-Man*.

PREVIOUSLY IN

# WORLD WAR 3

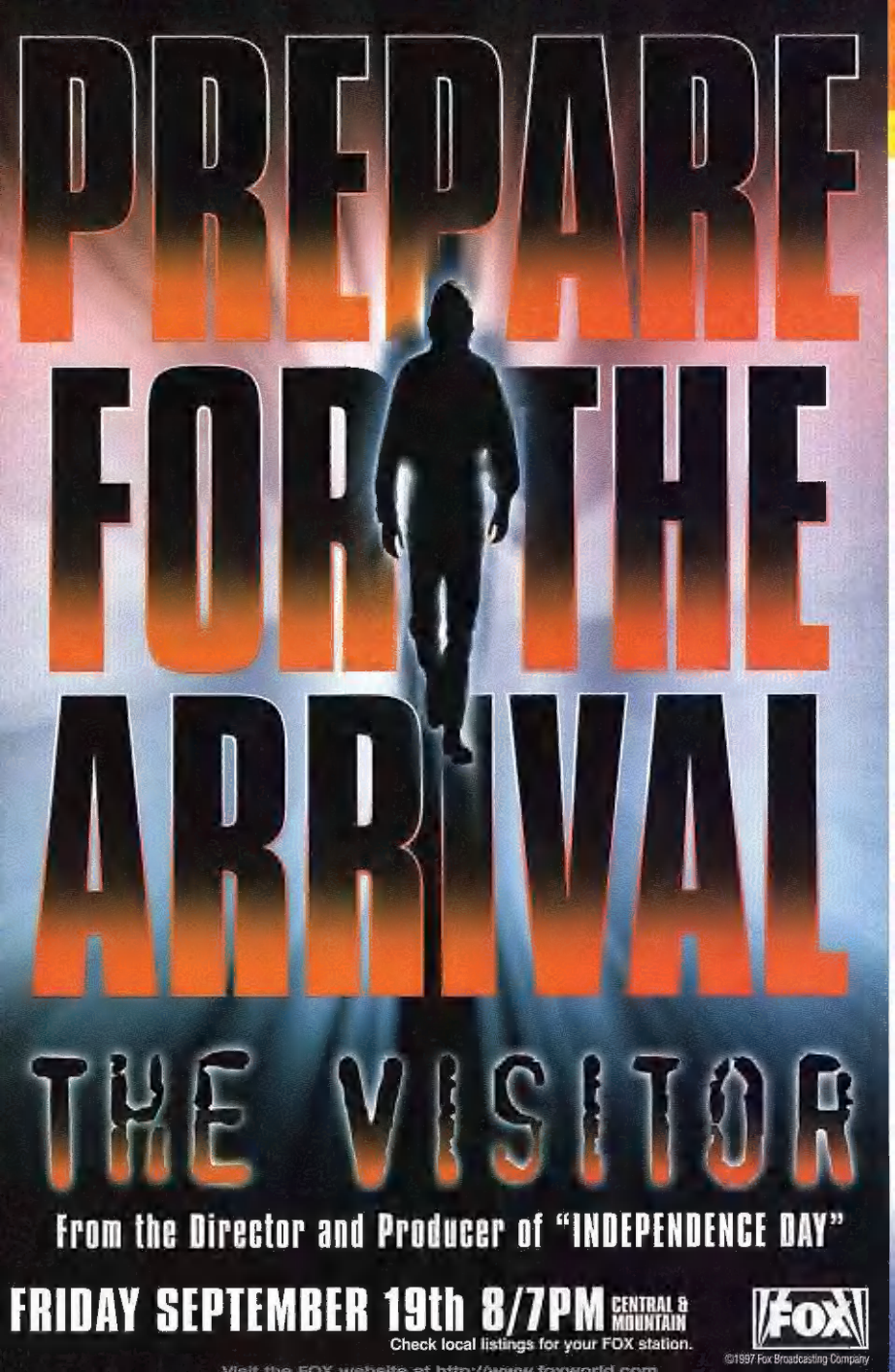


With the space/time continuum torn asunder, two universes bled into each other. The most vile creatures from both realities, Skrulls and Daemonites, joined forces to put a planet in peril. To stave their assault, every champion of this earth was called to arms! It mattered less which team they served with than how valiantly they fought.

Many heroes had already fallen; casualties of numerous, brutal battles. The shape-shifting aliens were ruthless, often assuming the guises of those they'd slain.

And when the ranks of the super-powered soldiers were depleted, mortal men and women were encouraged to enlist. Trained by technology and armed with sophisticated detection devices they marched to victory!

Design by COMICRAFT (JG/JM/CSL)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Eh? THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING.
THERE'S NOTHING TO THANK, REED. YOU FIND A WAY WE CAN END THE WAR WITH DOCTOR DOOM'S SKRULL/DAEMONITE ALLIANCE, TRY KEEPING ANY OF US AWAY.
WE ALL WANT IN.
NEVERTHELESS, IN THESE INCREDIBLY TRYING TIMES...
...I THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING HERE!
YOUR WORTH IS RENOWNED, RICHARDS. ON MIDGARD. ON ASGARD. LO, AND THE COSMOS BETWEEN.
IF ANYONE ELSE IS BETTER SUITED TO BRING AN END TO WAR, I KNOW NOT WHO.
I APPRECIATE THE KIND WORDS, THOR. ESPECIALLY COMING FROM THE REGAL... BY... I MEAN GODLIKE BEING AS YOU ARE.
BUT I NOTICE THERE IS ONE TEAM MISSING. OR AM I MISTAKEN?
WHO DO YOU MEAN, REED?
WETWORKS..?

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MICHAEL RYAN PENCILS
SALEEM CRAWFORD & SAL REGLA INKS
NATHAN LUMM COLORS
WILDSTORM FX COMPUTER COLOR
RS&COMICRAFT'S ALBERT DESCHESNE LETTERS

MICHELLE UPCHURCH ASST EDITOR
RACHELLE BRISSENDEN EDITOR
BOB HARRAS EDITOR IN CHIEF

WE GOT A TRANSMITTER DROID TO ACCOMPANY THEM.
SINCE THE DEATHLOK FIASCO, WE'VE HAD THEM ON EVERY MISSION INTO EUROPE, AS A RECORD OF EVENTS.
SO WHAT ARE WE LOOKING AT, LYNCH?
VENICE... WETWORKS ARE IN VENICE, ITALY.
UPON RUMOR OF BIO-WEAPONS MANUFACTURE... DANE VOLUNTEERED HIS TEAM FOR THE JOB OF SNIFFING AROUND.
HE SAID HE WAS BORED WAITING FOR AN ATTACK ON HOME GROUND.

LIKE A LOT OF US, HE WANTED TO TAKE THE FIGHT TO THEIR SIDE OF THE POND.
LOOKS LIKE HE GOT HIS WISH THEN, DOESN'T IT?
HE WAS MAD TOO. ONE OF HIS TEAM GOT KILLED IN THE IRAQI AFFAIR.
WHICH OF THE TEAM WAS THAT?

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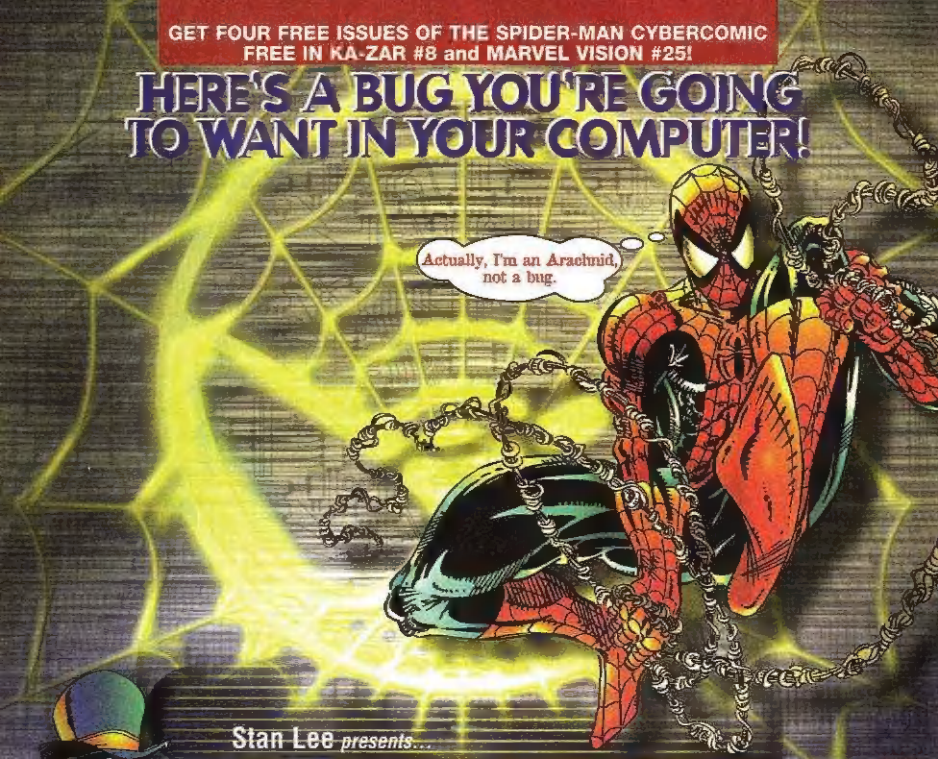

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YOU KNOW, I'M NOT SURE. WATCH THEM GO AT IT, I BET YOU CAN WORK IT OUT AS FAST AS ME FROM WHOEVER'S MISSING.
WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE LOSING THIS ONE. WHY DON'T YOU TELEPORT THEM OUT OF THERE... GET THEM BACK UP TO THE STORMWATCH SATELLITE?
THE SKRULL'S HAVE JAMMED OUR TELEPORTATION SIGNAL.
YOU'RE TELLING ME THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO, BUT WATCH THEM GET MASSACRED?
THAT'S THE SORRY STATE OF THINGS, I'M AFRAID TO SAY.
GOD, LOOK HOW OUTNUMBERED THEY ARE...
...IT'D TAKE A MIRACLE TO SAVE THEM!
WAIT, WETWORKS IS ALL IN THE CHURCH.
WHO'S BLASTING THE ENEMY OUTSIDE?

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?
A MIRACLE IN RED AND GOLD!

It's to a human what headlights are to a deer.
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I DON'T BELIEVE IT.
IT'S IRON MAN. HE'S BACK.
WHERE DO YOU THINK HE'S BEEN? WHY WAS HE AWAY?
WE'LL FIND OUT ALL THAT LATER, MAYBE. QUIET NOW...

I WANT TO ENJOY THIS.

SIGNAL'S BACK, SIR.
IRON MAN'S ARMOR MUST HAVE KNOCKED OUT THE SKRULL'S TELEPORTATION JAMMER. WE CAN TELEPORT THEM ON YOUR ORDER.
GOD ENSIGN, DON'T WAIT FOR MY ORDER...

... GET THEM OUT OF THERE.

LATER, WITH A CIGARETTE AND A GINGER ALE (WHERE ONCE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SCOTCH AND SODA)...
I THINK YOU OWE US AT LEAST A SMALL EXPLANATION, IRON MAN. YOU'VE BEEN GONE FOR OVER A YEAR.
VERILY, MY ARMORED FRIEND. WE HAD LONG THOUGHT YOU GONE TO VALHALLA.
I SUPPOSE, I SHOULD SAY SOMETHING.
WE'RE LISTENING, TONY.
WHEN STARK INDUSTRIES WAS ATTACKED... WHAT DID THE NEWSPAPERS CALL IT AT THE TIME..? "THIS WAR'S PEARL HARBOR"...
...POETIC. SURE, IN THAT BULLPEN RHETORIC KIND OF WAY. AMERICA GOT ANGRY FROM WHAT HAPPENED. WE INVADED EUROPE. WE GOT BEATEN. WE BECAME A NATION UNDER SIEGE.
ALL BECAUSE MY FACILITY GOT DESTROYED.
BUT IT TOUCHED ME ON A DEEPER LEVEL. NOT JUST THE DOLLARS AND CENTS VALUE OF [redacted] I LOST. NOT JUST THE ALIEN AFFRONT TO ME. NO.
I LOST SOME VERY SPECIAL PEOPLE THAT DAY. EVERY SPECIAL PERSON IN FACT. EVERYONE I LOVED.
WHEN YOU ALL RETURNED TO AMERICA FROM OUR INITIAL ASSAULT, TO PLAN ANEW, I COULDN'T ACCOMPANY AMERICA'S RETREATING FORCES. MY NEED TO AVENGE MY LOVED ONES [redacted] TOO STRONG.
I [redacted]VED BRASS'S TECHNOLOGY SO HE'D BE A FIT REPLACEMENT FOR [redacted] THE TEAM.
WHICH HE HAS, IRON MAN. SPEAKING AS ANOTHER STAND-IN, I CAN ATTEST TO BRASS'S WORTH.
ANYWAY, WHEN I'D DONE THAT, I LEFT FOR EUROPE AGAIN.
I'VE BEEN FIGHTING THEM THERE ON MY OWN [redacted] THEN.
OH, APART FROM THE TIMES CAPTAIN AMERICA... THE [redacted]AL CAP... NOMAD, I [redacted] HE'S CALLED NOW... THE TIMES HE'D [redacted] WITH ME.
YOU'RE SAYING CAP'S OUT THERE TOO?
AFTER HIS "FAILURE" AS HE CALLS IT, THERE WAS NO WAY HE'D RETURN FROM FIGHTING.
I WANT REVENGE. HE WANTS REDEMPTION.

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KITAEN.
I'M ON IT, SIR. IF I CAN PINPOINT HIS LOCATION I CAN TELEPORT MYSELF DOWN TO HIM.
ANYWAY, I'M HERE. I'M BACK. WHY? WHAT'S SO IMPORTANT YOU TOOK ME AWAY FROM THE FIGHTING?
A CHANCE TO END THE FIGHTING ALTOGETHER.
YOU AREN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO'S LOST LOVED ONES.
WE LOST SUE'S BROTHER JOHNNY DURING THE [redacted] INVASION. THEN, IN AN EXPLORATION OF THE NEGATIVE ZONE FOR FUEL SOURCES THAT MIGHT AID THE WAR EFFORT, THE F.F. WERE TRAPPED IN [redacted] ENERGY VORTEX.
BEN WAS SEPARATED FROM US AND DRAGGED OFF TO SOME UNCHARTED AREA OF THE ZONE.
WHEN WE CAN SPARE THE TIME WE HUNT FOR HIM.
WE WENT FURTHER THAN EVER BEFORE. THIS LAST VISIT. I THINK WE MAY HAVE GONE TO THE VERY [redacted] OF THE NEGATIVE ZONE. IF SUCH A THING [redacted] POSSIBLE.
WHAT WE FOUND THERE, WAS AN AREA LIKE A BROKEN LENS, OR THE EYE OF A FLY..., SHOWING GLIMPSES OF OTHER DIMENSIONS... OTHER REALITIES. EARTH AND THE UNIVERSE AROUND IT, OVER AND OVER WITH [redacted] CHANGES.
THERE ARE EARTHS WHERE THE HEROES ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT. THERE ARE WORLDS WHERE TH[redacted] ARE NO SUPER-HEROES AT ALL.
[redacted] WORLD HAD ANIMAL PEOPLE WALKING AROUND AND TALKING, MICE AND DUCKS AND THE LIKE.

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BUT BY ANALYZING THE DATA, I UNCOVERED [redacted] TRUTH... A STARTLING TRUTH.
WE NEED TO RECRUIT THE MICE AND DUCKS?
FUNNY, GRIFTER, BUT NO.
WE NEED TO TEAR THIS WORLD IN HALF.
THE WORLD [redacted] LIVE [redacted] IS ACTUALLY TWO DIFFERENT REALITIES THAT MET IN A MOMENT WHEN BOTH EXPERIENCED UNREALITY.
THEY WERE HELD TOGETHER BY SOME SORT OF REVERSE ATTRACTION.
SINCE THE DAWN OF TIME?
NO, WHAT [redacted] LIKE THAT, [redacted] ACTUALLY TWO SEPARATE DAWNS OF TIME, THAT UPON UNITING, INTERTWINED BOTH AS PAST AND PRESENT.
WHAT I WAS ABLE TO ASCERTAIN FROM MY SCANNERS WAS THAT ON ONE EARTH THE SKRULLS WERE A SOLE THREAT THE WORLD'S HEROES WERE ABLE TO CONTROL. LIKEWISE, ON THE OTHER WORLD IT WAS THE DAEMONITES WHO WERE ALSO DEFEATED BY SUPERHUMANS.
THIS IS... ...MIND-BLOWING!
IT'S LIKE THOSE CRAZY DISCUSSIONS YOU HAVE DURING PARTIES WHEN EVERYONE'S TIRED AND THEY'VE HAD TOO MUCH TO DRINK.
AS CRAZY AS THIS SOUNDS, THE PAST WE KNOW MIGHT BE A FIGMENT OF THE PRESENT'S IMAGINATION.
ALTHOUGH IT SEEMS LIKE WE'VE BEEN LIVING THE LIVES WE HAVE... FIGHTING THE WAR WE FOUGHT... THE WORLD TODAY MAY ONLY HAVE [redacted] UNITED FOR [redacted] MINUTE [redacted] OF REALITY... OR [redacted] HOUR, OR [redacted] YEAR.

I ALSO LEARNED THAT SOMEONE... AND IT CAN ONLY BE ONE PERSON, DOCTOR DOOM... HAD MADE THE SAME DISCOVERY THAT THE F.F. DID, AND CREATED SOME KIND OF "LOCK" TO KEEP THE TWO REALITIES COMBINED, WHERE OTHERWISE THEY WOULD HAVE DRIFTED APART AGAIN.
MY SCANNER DEVICES TRACED THE "LOCK", PIN-POINTING THE LOCATION IN THE ZONE FROM THE [redacted] THE LOCK WAS GIVING OFF.
BUT THEN WE WERE ATTACKED BY ANNIHILUS AND HELSPONT, TWO OF DOOM'S [redacted] WHOSE TASK IT IS TO [redacted] THE TRUTH" AS THEY PUT IT... [redacted] STOP THE TRUTH BEING [redacted]
WE FELT IT MORE IMPORTANT YOU ALL KNEW ABOUT IT, THAN FOR US TO FIGHT AND RISK DEFEAT.
WHOA. SO LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT...
...IN LAYMAN'S TERMS FOR ALL OF US WHO FLUNKED SCIENCE...
...OUR REALITY IS ACTUALLY TWO REALITIES. AND THE ONLY WAY WE CAN DEFEAT THE SKRULL/DAEMONITE ALLIANCE IS TO SPLIT THE REALITIES AGAIN?
BUT HOW WILL WE KNOW WHICH [redacted] ANY ONE OF US IS GOING [redacted] TO?
WE DON'T.
YOU JUST HAVE TO HOPE THAT THE LIFE YOU LIVE NOW...THE PEOPLE YOU LOVE... IS THE WAY YOUR LIFE WILL REMAIN.
SO, I [redacted] THIS IS A DAUNTING PROPOSITION. DO [redacted] ALL AGREE TO UNDO REALITY FO[redacted] THE SAKE OF PEACE [redacted] SANITY? [redacted] DO [redacted] IN THE FACE OF LOOMING DEFEAT?
I AM MERELY THE MESSAGE-BEARER, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. IT'S ALL OF OUR DECISION.
SO YOU HEARD HIM, PEOPLE...

LATVERIA.
THEY HAVE NO IDEA ONE OF THEM IS A SPY, DOOM. WHAT SUPREME IRONY.
...WHICH IS IT TO BE?
YES, HELSPONT, THEY PLAN WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN THEIR MEANS OF VICTORY...
...AND INSTEAD, BY REVEALING ALL TO US, [redacted] HAVE THE MEANS TO DEFEAT THEM.
[redacted] Dr. DOOM, [redacted] WE'RE FOREWARNED OF THE HEROES' PLANS, [redacted] CAN UNDO THEM [redacted] THEY'VE [redacted] BEGUN.
I HAVE TO SAY, STRIKING AN ALLEGIANCE WITH YOU AND HELSPONT REALLY WAS ONE OF MY BETTER IDEAS.
YOUR IDEA?
YOUR IDEA? YOU MAY BE THE SKRULL'S HIGH-EMISSARY, BUT YOU FOLLOW [redacted] LEAD. I DOUBT YOU'VE EVER HAD A GOOD IDEA IN YOUR LITTLE GREEN HEAD.
YE... YES. QUITE RIGHT. IT.... IT... IT... REALLY WAS ONE OF YOUR BETTER IDEAS, I MEANT TO SAY.
YOUR IDEA, DOCTOR DOOM.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, HELSPONT?
I DON'T THINK IT MATTERS WHO FIRST THOUGHT OF OUR PACT, ONLY THAT WE CONTINUE TO PROSPER BY IT.
WE HAVE HALF OF THE WORLD, GENTLEMEN. LET'S TAKE THE REST.

THE NEGATIVE ZONE...
-- SO IN THEORY, I COULD GET OUT OF THIS.
YOU'RE TELLING ME YOU [redacted] PROPULSION UNIT ON YOUR COSTUME THAT COULD CARRY YOU FREE OF THIS WHITE AREA WE'RE BOTH IN, BUT YOU HAVEN'T DONE IT? THAT'S CRAZY.
NO, TO WASTE YOUR ONE SHOT, IS CRAZY.
I GOT ENOUGH [redacted] TO GET [redacted] OF HERE, BUT NOT MUCH MORE. I DON'T KNOW WHICH WAY TO GO. I SET OFF ONE WAY, AND THE GATEWAY OUT OF HERE COULD BE SOMEWHERE ELSE. AND IT AIN'T LIKE ON EARTH WHERE WE GOT FOUR POINTS OF THE COMPASS... A ONE IN FOUR CHANCE.
[redacted] IT'S UP, DOWN AND [redacted] AROUND. THE WAY BACK TO EARTH COULD BE [redacted] I BEEN FLOATING, [redacted] MY FUEL. AND [redacted] FOR A SIGNPOST BACK.
HAHAHAHAHA HAHAHA
I MISS THE JOKE, CHUM.
I'M A MAN OF... I WAS GOING TO SAY ACTION, BUT I'M BEING CHARITABLE TO MYSELF. I'M A MAN OF DEATH. I FALL ONTO THE GOOD GUYS' SIDE, BUT ONLY JUST.
I NEEDED TO FIND SOME SORT OF SPIRITUALITY IN ORDER TO GET AROUND THE GUILT I FEEL FOR MY PAST DEEDS. I FOUND IT. I HAVE THAT SPIRITUALITY [redacted] NOW... IT'S [redacted] OF ME.
[redacted] BECAUSE OF THAT, I'M MORE [redacted] TO HUMANITY... [redacted] MORE ATTUNED TO EARTH... [redacted] IT IS.
YOU'RE TELLIN' ME --
I'M TELLING YOU I'VE BEEN FLOATING HERE, WITHOUT ANY WAY TO PROPEL MYSELF... BUT KNOWING ALL THE WHILE WHERE I NEEDED TO GET.
YOU NEED A SIGNPOST, BROTHER, I'M IT.
THEN TOGETHER WE COULD GET OUTTA HERE.
WHAT'RE WE WAITING FOR?

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ALL RIGHT, WE'VE *ELECTED* TO DO THIS...
...BUT *WHO* EXACTLY DOES WHAT? I SEE *ENOUGH* OF US... WITH OUR *COMBINED* POWER...WE COULD TAKE ON ALMOST *ANYTHING*.
I THINK WE SHOULD *DEPLOY* OURSELVES IN THIS FASHION... THE "*LOCK*" THAT KEEPS THE *TWO* REALITIES TOGETHER IS POSITIONED *HALF* IN THE NEGATIVE ZONE AND *HALF* ON EARTH...IN DOOM'S *CASTLE* IN LATVERIA TO BE *EXACT*. THE LOCK DEVICE *NEEDS* TO BE TURNED *OFF* AT BOTH ENDS.
I THINK WE SHOULD [redacted] INTO [redacted] GROUPS.
*I'LL* LEAD THE AVENGERS AND STORMWATCH *INTO* THE NEGATIVE ZONE.
LYNCH AND DANE SHOULD LEAD A COMBINED ASSAULT WITH IRON MAN, WETWORKS, THE WILDC.A.T.S, THE *REST* OF THE F.F., AND DANE WHITMAN'S BLACK KNIGHTS *INTO* LATVERIA AND *BREACH* DOOM'S CASTLE.
I THINK *THOSE* OF [redacted] WHO ARE [redacted] LATVERIA SHOULD [redacted] AND PLAN OUR ASSAULT. I WANT WETWORKS [redacted]KED' OUT *MEDICALLY* AFTER THEIR COMBAT ANYWAY, SO LET'S *ALL* GO UP TO THE STORMWATCH SATELLITE. WE *KNOW* IT'S *IMPERVIOUS* TO ATTACK.
WHILE *YOU'RE* DOING THAT, *MY* TEAM WILL ENTER THE NEGATIVE ZONE.
THERE'S JUST *ONE* THING I HAVE TO DO *BEFORE* I GO.

SO A VAST GROUP OF THEM WILL BE AT THE STORMWATCH SATELLITE.
THEY'RE [redacted] THE [redacted] PLACE. WE'VE [redacted] TO BREACH. WITH ITS DEFLECTOR SHIELD DEFENSES, NONE OF OUR [redacted] FIGHTERS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO LAUNCH A SUCCESSFUL ATTACK.
PERHAPS NOW IS THE TIME FOR US TO UNVEIL THE ELEMENTRONS!
AH, BUT YOU FORGET, WE HAVE OUR SPY. NO, WE SHOULD KEEP OUR SECRET WEAPONS IN RESERVE.
THE ORDER TO [redacted] IS SIMPLE, HIGH-EMISSARY...
"...LAUNCH THE BIORULL SPACE FLEET!"

SO, THE TASK OF YOU FOUR IS OF NO LESS IMPORTANCE. AFTER ANNIHILUS AND DEFILE EMERGED FROM THIS PORTAL, WE CAN'T SECOND-GUESS WHAT OTHER SURPRISES DOOM MAY HAVE PLANTED IN THE ZONE...
... THREATS WE WOULDN'T WANT RUNNING FREE WITHIN THE BAXTER BUILDING.
THE BUILDING WILL REMAIN SECURE, REED, DON'T WORRY.
JUST COME BACK FROM THIS ALIVE.
YEAH, GOOD LUCK TO ALL OF YOU...

"...GOOD LUCK AND GOD'S SPEED."

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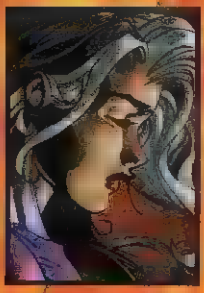

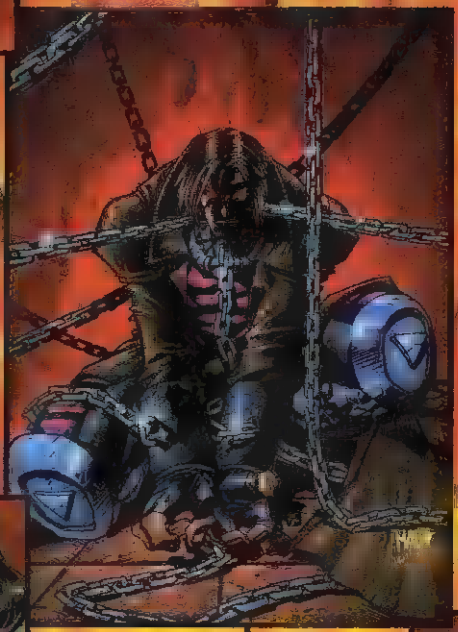

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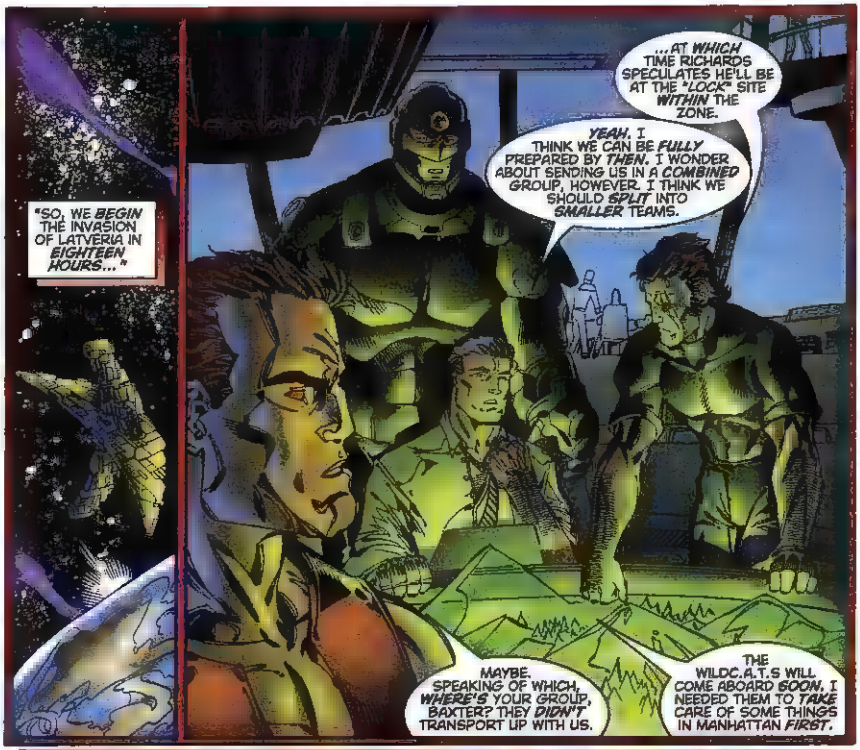
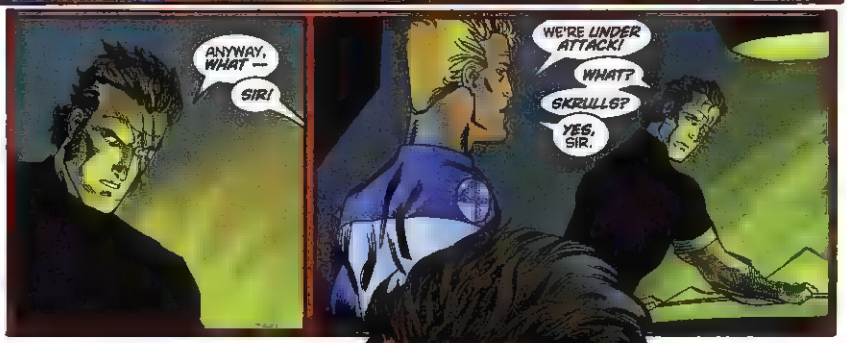
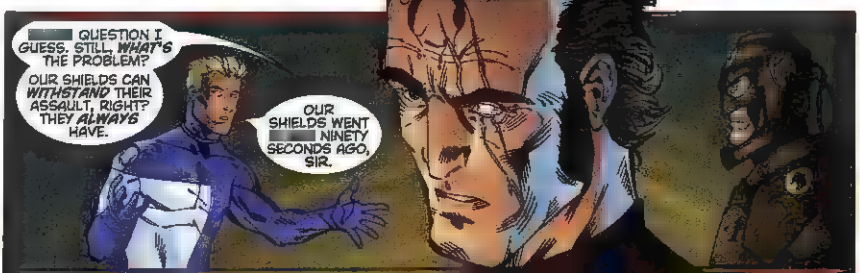

"SO, WE BEGIN THE INVASION OF LATVERIA IN EIGHTEEN HOURS..."
...AT WHICH TIME RICHARDS SPECULATES HE'LL BE AT THE "LOCK" SITE WITHIN THE ZONE.
YEAH. I THINK WE CAN BE FULLY PREPARED BY THEN. I WONDER ABOUT SENDING US IN A COMBINED GROUP, HOWEVER. I THINK WE SHOULD SPLIT INTO SMALLER TEAMS.
MAYBE. SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHERE'S YOUR GROUP, BAXTER? THEY DIDN'T TRANSPORT UP WITH US.
THE WILDC.A.T.S WILL COME ABOARD SOON. I NEEDED THEM TO TAKE CARE OF SOME THINGS IN MANHATTAN FIRST.


ANYWAY, WHAT --
SIR!
WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!
WHAT?
SKRULLS?
YES, SIR.


[redacted] QUESTION I GUESS. STILL, WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
OUR SHIELDS CAN WITHSTAND THEIR ASSAULT, RIGHT? THEY ALWAYS HAVE.
OUR SHIELDS WENT [redacted] NINETY SECONDS AGO, SIR.

# BULLPEN BULLETINS

**$13**

Continued from MAN #13! Just as our heroes [illegible] from their encounter with GALACTUS, a cataclysmic event tears a rift in [illegible] ZONE, causing a merging of the Heroes Reborn universe with the Wildstorm universe! By JAMES ROBINSON and RON LIM!

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Guest-starring [illegible] GREAT LAKES AVENGERS! DEADPOOL [illegible] BLUNO ALFRED to the aquarium -- but [illegible] favorite merc with a mouth may find [illegible] he's the one who's gonna end up all wet! By JOE KELLY and ED McGUINNESS!

**$12**

At long [illegible] - ELEKTRA [illegible] face-to-face with DAREDEVIL! Maybe Marvel's most combustible couple [illegible] get a second chance [illegible] love, hmmm? By PETER MILLIGAN and MIKE DEODATO, JR.!

**'97**

The return [illegible] KA-ZAR's long-time [illegible] GARROKK [illegible] petrified man! Plus: the lowdown on how PARNIVAL PLUNDER [illegible] his cosmic cohort hooked up! By BRIAN VAUGHN and WALTER McDANIEL!

**$2.99**

Second anniversary issue! Featuring news [illegible] articles about HEROES [illegible] THE RETURN, the [illegible] CONAN, STAR TREK, and lots more!

**$1**

At last! The fastest guy in the Marvel Universe slows down long enough to [illegible] in [illegible] [illegible] ongoing monthly series! And wait'll you [illegible] how [illegible] HIGH EVOLUTIONARY, [illegible] KNIGHTS OF [illegible] and EXODUS fit in! By TOM PEYER and CASEY JONES!

**$1.33**

Concluding the SILVER SURFER/SORRENTINO/PUPPET MASTER saga! Sorrentino's made her move to control the Surfer - but it ain't easy controlling a wielder of the Power Cosmic! By J.M. DeMATTEIS and PAUL PELLETIER!

**$2.51**

[illegible] return continues to plague the life of PETER PARKER! And if that's not enough, the [illegible] KRAVEN has [illegible] his sights on SPIDER-MAN! Double jeopardy [illegible] its finest! By J.M. DeMATTEIS and LUKE ROSS!

**$1.18**

The return of the original DOCTOR OCTOPUS culminates in [illegible] jam-packed tale that examines [illegible] life and times - with some surprises thrown in for good measure! By TONI DeFALCO and JOE BENNETT!

**$1**

Kicking off the *final* VENOM limited series! The government has [illegible] their [illegible] of their symbiotic secret agent – but [illegible] days, you just can't get rid of a bomb! By LARRY HAMA and [illegible] PAJARILLO!

**$3.95**

[illegible] the forces of darkness gather against him, GAMBIT races for sanctuary – [illegible] the Vatican! Let's see [illegible] this thief can behave himself in church! By HOWARD MACKIE, TERRY [illegible] and [illegible] JANSON!

**$1.95**

The original New Mutants - CANNONBALL, MOONSTAR, WOLFSBANE, [illegible] and SUNSPOT - reunite for [illegible] first time! And they're brought together by their former teammate, [illegible] But wait -- isn't she *dead*?! By [illegible] RAAB and [illegible] CHANG!

**$1.18**

In the aftermath of OPERATION ZERO TOLERANCE, [illegible] life [illegible] CYCLOPS hangs in the balance! It's up to WOLVERINE and [illegible] X-MEN to [illegible] against time to understand what BASTION did [illegible] him - and how to counteract it! By LARRY HAMA and LEINIL FRANCIS YU!

**$1.71**

The team finally gets to [illegible] loose! No more CABLE, no [illegible] XAVIER – no [illegible] rules! Now, with some members gone, [illegible] squad hits the road and heads [illegible] for a new life, new adventures and a whole new direction! By JOHN FRANCIS MOORE and ADAM POLLINA!

**$1.10**

The ENTERPRISE responds [illegible] a distress signal from a newly-colonized planet - only to find it razed by the shock troops of [illegible] THOLIANS, who [illegible] annexing all the inhabitable planets surrounding their territory! By DAN ABNETT, IAN EDDINGTON and MICHAEL COLLINS!

**$1.95**

TELEPATHY WAR, Part Three! Continued from STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE #12! The ENTERPRISE-E travels through the Wormhole to [illegible] Gamma Quadrant to [illegible] out why [illegible] sent a squad to attack OS9! By DAN ABNETT, IAN EDDINGTON [illegible] RANDALL!

**$1**

The concluding chapter [illegible] TELEPATHY WAR! The DOMINION and the JEM'HADAR collide [illegible] [illegible] assembles heroes from the FEDERATION! At stake – the lives of [illegible] [illegible] telepathic races of the Alpha Quadrant! By CHRIS COOPER and PATRICK ZIRCHER!

**ITEM!** He's the fastest mutant in the Marvel Universe! He's been a notorious super-villain in the BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS, and [illegible] respected super hero in the AVENGERS and X-FACTOR! He's the son of MAGNETO, the brother of the SCARLET WITCH, and he's got a temper that's hotter than molten lava! And if you don't know who we're talking about by now, bunky, then you gotta turn in your Merry Marvel Marching Society membership card!

Of course, we're referring to QUICKSILVER, who gets awarded his own ongoing monthly series starting next week – and if even *half* of what [illegible] hear about it is true then, boy, is this gonna be something special! For one thing, Quicksilver – PIETRO MAXIMOFF to those who know him well – is [illegible] alone than ever, what with the apparent deaths of his wife CRYSTAL and his aforementioned sister during the ONSLAUGHT crisis. All he's got [illegible] in this world is his daughter LUNA. But during a visit to WUNDAGORE MOUNTAIN, where he's reunited with the enigmatic HIGH EVOLUTIONARY, he finds himself facing the arch-villain EXODUS, who has claimed the throne of Pietro's father, Magneto, and is launching an all-out attack [illegible] the mountain with his followers, the ACOLYTES! Now, Quicksilver has [illegible] join forces with the H.E.'s personal guard, the bestial KNIGHTS OF WUNDAGORE, in a war of mutants, humans and animal-men [illegible] will rock both Quicksilver's life and the Marvel Universe itself! Whoa – sounds pretty major to us!

It's written by Terrific TOM PEYER, penciled by Cartwheelin' CASEY JONES and inked by Jovial JASON MARTIN! Be sure to check [illegible] out when [illegible] speeds into the comic shops just seven days from now – wouldn't want to get left [illegible] the dust, would ya?

**ITEM!** Next week also marks the release of NEW MUTANTS #1, which kicks off a three-issue limited series that [illegible] think is gonna be remembered for a long time! See, the hook is that the original New Mutants – CANNONBALL, WARLOCK, CYPHER, MIRAGE, MAGIK, WOLFSBANE, MAGMA and SUNSPOT, just [illegible] you remember them from the early issues of their late, lamented series – get to meet their present-day counterparts! And in the years since their earliest adventures, these young heroes have long since moved on to bigger and better things – the ones who haven't died, that is! So you can bet that the younger versions are gonna be mighty surprised when they discover what the future has in store for them!

It seems that time travel is involved, and that MIKHAIL RASPUTIN (brother of MAGIK and EXCALIBUR's man of metal, COLOSSUS) is orchestrating the whole affair for his own selfish purposes! What could be driving him to bring the past and present together? What'll happen when the original team and the present-day versions actually collide in battle? Do inexperienced but passionate youths stand a chance against their far more skilled, older and wiser selves? This is a chance to really [illegible] how much the characters have grown and changed over the years, and to revisit the dearly departed but far-from-forgotten, like Warlock, Cypher and Magik. It's skillfully written by Bouncin' [illegible] RAAB, beautifully penciled by Burnin' BERNARD CHANG, and indelibly inked by Mirthful MARK PENNINGTON, so don't miss out – and tell your future selves all about it, too!

## STAN'S SOAPBOX!

Hi, Heroes!

I've been besieged by letters asking about the benefits that No-Prize winners receive – as if being [illegible] No-Prize Laureate isn't honor enough! Obviously, there are too many benefits to list in one column, but here's [illegible] of the most important, just to whet your appetite: *The bearer of a No-Prize has the right to buy an unlimited amount of Marvel comics each and every month – and none may say him nay!*

While we're stricken with awe by that fantastic privilege, let's tackle our first letter. Daniel Daugherty of Bowling Green, KY, asks:

***"Are there any plans for a Ghost Rider cartoon?"***

Alas, not now, Danny – but you'll be glad to know that we're planning to do ol' Hot-Head as a live-action movie instead!

Maurice Simmons of Upper Marlboro, MD, wants to know:

***"Why does Marvel bring back [illegible] dead characters?"***

Mainly because if we brought back a live [illegible] you wouldn't notice! But hey, we don't bring back [illegible] many – Norman Osborn isn't exactly a whole crowd, and [illegible] revealed, it only *appeared* that he [illegible] dead!

Chris Shelton of Ramona, CA, hit me with:

***"What would you say [illegible] someone who wants to get into the comic book biz?"***

I'd say, "Forget it! I've got enough competition now!" But if you insist, I'd advise you to make up some samples of your work and shoot 'em to Marvel's "Submissions Editor" [illegible] our N.Y. address. Our Sub. Ed. is like the Marines – he's always looking for a few good men! (Or women – whatever!)

Here's one from Yazan Amin of Ridgefield, CT, who seems to have a good rumor source:

***"I heard you guys are making an Iron [illegible] feature film soon. Izzit true?"***

It sure is, Yaz. In fact, I wrote the story together with my pal, Jeff Vintar, who's also doing the screenplay. And wait'll you see the far-out villains we've cooked up for poor Shellhead!

Brendan Walsh of Chicago, IL, must be a statistician. He wants to know:

***"Do you own every Marvel comic ever published?"***

Hey, Brendan, if I did, I'd be off on my yacht somewhere sailing to my private island instead of sitting here, hunched over my computer, wearily bringing knowledge and joy to countless millions! Y'see, in the early years of comics, most of us writers and artists were too bone-headed to save the stuff [illegible] did. Gotta stop now – can't write with tears of regret blinding me!

How [illegible] about that! Five No-Prize winners this ish! And just think – not a single animal was harmed in the production of this column!

Excelsior!

Stan Lee

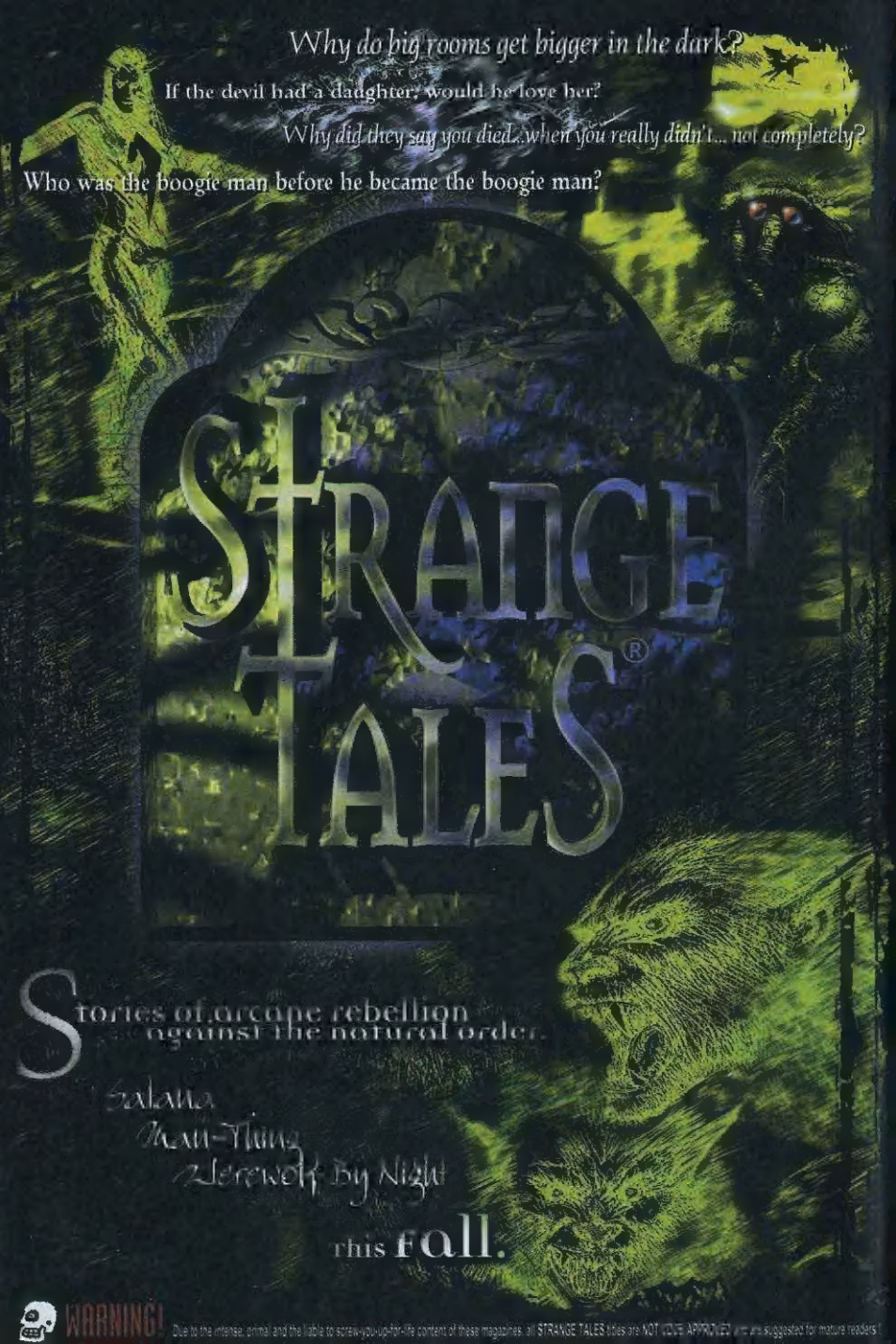
And here's the best part — send your letter to: "Stan's Soapbox," c/o BULLPEN BULLETINS, Marvel Comics, 387 [illegible] Avenue South, [illegible] York, NY 10016.

WHAT CAUSED THE SHIELDS TO CRASH?
I'M NOT SURE, SIR. IT LOOKS LIKE --
YEAH?
IT LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE DID IT DELIBERATELY, SIR.
Oh.
HOW LONG UNTIL YOU CAN GET THEM UP AND RUNNING?
OUR TECHS ARE WORKING ON IT.
HOW LONG?
HOURS.

HI.
HI.
KIND OF LAME WE DIDN'T GET TO GO INTO THE NEG ZONE WITH THE REST OF THE AVENGERS AND STORMWATCH, HUH?
WE WERE ELECTED AS REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE TEAMS TO BE PART OF THE INVASION FORCE. THAT'S JUST AS IMPORTANT.
I GUESS. WE HAVEN'T MET BEFORE, RIGHT?
I'M ROXY.
NO, I THINK I'D REMEMBER SOMEONE LIKE YOU.
CAITLIN.
IT'S FUNNY, BUT I COULD'VE SWORN WE'D MET BEFORE.
ME TOO.
ALL PERSONNEL PREPARE TO EVACUATE.
UH OH.
IT WOULD TAKE FOUR MINUTES FOR A FULL EVACUATION OF THE STORMWATCH SATELLITE.

THE HEROES HAVE SIX SECONDS.
IT HAPPENS SO QUICKLY IN FACT...
...THAT THERE IS NO TIME FOR SURPRISE.
NO TIME FOR PAIN.
NO TIME FOR FEAR...
...IF VALIANT HEARTS SUCH AS THESE FELT SO CALLOW A THING.
AND THEN...
MAYBE IN THE [illegible] LIFE,
YEAH... MAYBE IN THE NEXT LIFE.

...IT ENDS!
WORLD WAR 3
CONTINUES IN


Why do big rooms get bigger in the dark?
If the devil had a daughter, would he love her?
Why did they say you died...when you really didn't... not completely?
Who was the boogie man before he became the boogie man?
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Age ____ Male ____ Female ____

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yes ____ no ____

If so, how many? _____

Please circle the kit you want:

1A 2A 3A 4A

Today's date _____

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